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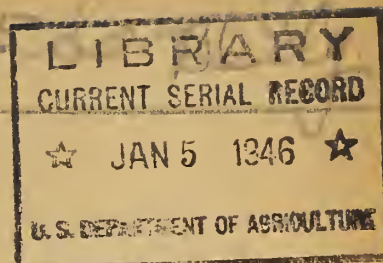
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ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING
FOR TIMELY FARM TOPIC No. 44b

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A transcribed talk by Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Chief of Division of Soil Survey, Agricultural Research Administration, United States Department of Agriculture. Recorded: September 25, 1945. Time: 5 minutes, 8 seconds, without announcer's part.

OPENING

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE)

Most farm people have a neighborly interest in what other farm people are doing . . . whether the other farmers are in the same county or in another country. Not long ago the scientists of Russia invited a group of scientists from America to their country to help celebrate the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. One of the American scientists who went was Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Chief of the Division of Soil Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. . . though he went to Russia as a private citizen and not as an official representative of any group. While there, Dr. Kellogg visited two farms near Moscow — a collective farm and a State farm. By transcription, Dr. Kellogg, will you tell us something about what you saw on those Russian farms?

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE)

That was Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, soil scientist of the United States Department of Agriculture, giving you a view of agriculture in one of the United Nations.

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A GLIMPSE OF RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE

A transcribed talk by Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Chief of the Division of Soil Survey, Agricultural Research Administration, United States Department of Agriculture. Recorded September 25, 1945. Time: 5 minutes, 8 seconds, without announcer's part.

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TRANSCRIPTION:

KELLOGG: You'll understand what I tell you about the farms I saw in Russia better, I think, if I give you one bit of background information first. And it's this: There are two great age-old agricultural organizations or patterns in the world -- scattered farms and agricultural villages. The pattern in the United States is almost wholly scattered farms. The pattern in Russia is almost wholly agricultural villages. . . . with the people living in villages and going out to the land. It's always been that way in Russia. So. . . the collective system of farming is not such a great change as one might first think.

Now, for the Russian farms I saw.

Farms in the Soviet Union are either collective farms or State farms. There are a few individual farms, but very few. Any citizen over 16 years old may apply to be a member of a collective farm, and it's seldom an application is turned down.

On the collective farm I visited near Moscow, there were 280 families with 322 workers. I didn't see many young people among the workers because this farm sent 300 young men and about 75 young women to the army.

There were over a thousand acres in the farm, and nearly 700 acres under intensive cultivation. The rest of the land was mostly taken up with homes and gardens of the workers. This farm was developed where there had been an agricultural village. . . . as are most of the collective farms in Russia.

The farm land does not belong to individuals, but the houses and gardens do. The owner's children may inherit the house, or he may sell it if he wishes. Or a man may build himself a new house.

The members of the collective farm elect the chairman (or farm manager). The State is responsible for the general plan for the farm, but the members develop the management scheme. If the plan seems unreasonable, the members can appeal to the district officials to modify it.

Production had been changed over from grain to fruits and vegetables. Many of the farms near Moscow have done this. I saw 46 people working with cucumber and tomato plants under glass, and 17 people working on seed production. Over 130 acres were in relatively new apple orchards, underplanted with gooseberries and strawberries.

I was told about 27 percent of the produce on this collective farm went to the State for taxes. It's hard to compare this with our taxes, because the basic situation is so different. A small percentage goes to pay for seed, and the rest is divided among the workers according to the amount and kind of work they've done. If they have produced more than the management plan called for, they share the additional produce, of course.

Our farmers often cooperate on marketing, but seldom cooperate on production. In Russia, this situation is reversed. Each worker markets his own products. I suggested it would be more efficient to have a marketing specialist on the farm who would know when the various products would be best received in the markets. Also this specialist could supervise the grading and packing, and arrange for transportation. But the Russians objected to my suggestion on the ground that one man might want to sell his products one week and another the next. Under the scheme of collective marketing I was suggesting, the Russians said, a member would lose his right of individual decision.

The farm had a nice children's nursery. . . I went through it . . . and a first-aid station with a physician and dentist.

I went into a farm house . . . a peasant house. It was well built with thick walls and enough stoves. Living room and sleeping rooms were small but comfortable. The kitchen didn't look conveniently arranged and there were no modern improvements. The house had electric lights, but apparently electricity was used for nothing else in the house but lighting.

That's a quick picture of the collective farm. The State farm I visited was also near Moscow. There's not time to describe this State farm, but I'll explain the chief differences between the two types of farms as I saw them. The State farm appeared to be operated for what we would call demonstration purposes as well as for production . . . to serve as a model for the collective farms. On a State farm, the workers get a salary and the manager is appointed. On the collective farm, you'll remember I said the manager was elected and the members received a share of the produce for their work instead of a salary. The main income was from dairying and cattle breeding. Many of the purebred cattle are sold to collective farms.

In telling you about these Russian farms, I'm making no attempt to analyze or comment . . . I'm simply talking about what I saw in one day.

Now, my special field is soil science, and though I was only to tell you about the Russian farms I saw, I can't close without saying something about soil science. . . and why I felt honored to be invited to Moscow by the Russian Academy. Russia is a country where modern soil science, as we know it, originated. It started about 1870 with the work of the great Russian scientist, Dokuchaiov, and his theory that life started in the soil.

The work of Dokuchaiov and other great Russian scientists who followed him eventually turned soil science upside down the world over. We in this country have greatly benefited from the work of Russian scientists in fundamental soil research.

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